

Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



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Contents

Addresses and Remarks

See also Meetings With Foreign Leaders
Canada, Summit of the Americas in Quebec,
departure for—634
Chile-U.S. free trade agreement—618
Connecticut, Central Connecticut State
University in New Britain—624
National Days of Remembrance,
observance—631
Organization of American States—620
Radio address—615
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic
Pollutants—630
U.S. Chamber of Commerce—616
U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum—629

Communications to Congress

Conventional Armed Forces in Europe
Treaty, letter transmitting report—615

Communications to Federal Agencies

Report to the Congress Regarding Conditions
in Burma and U.S. Policy Toward Burma,
memorandum—615
Waiver and Certification of Statutory
Provisions Regarding the Palestine
Liberation Organization, memorandum—
623

Interviews With the News Media

Exchanges with reporters in the Oval Office—
618, 632

Meetings With Foreign Leaders

Argentina, President de la Rúa—632
Bolivia, President Banzer—635
Brazil, President Cardoso—635
Chile, President Lagos—618
Colombia, President Pastrana—635
Ecuador, President Noboa—635
Panama, President Moscoso—635
Peru, President Paniagua Corazao—635
Venezuela, President Chavez—635

Proclamations

National Park Week—623
National Volunteer Week—620

Statements by the President

Environmental Protection Agency action on
lead poisoning—622
Upper Mississippi River Basin, flooding—634

Supplementary Materials

Acts approved by the President—638
Checklist of White House press releases—637
Digest of other White House
announcements—636
Nominations submitted to the Senate—637

Editor's Note: The President was in Quebec, Canada, on April 20, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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Week Ending Friday, April 20, 2001

Memorandum on the Report to the Congress Regarding Conditions in Burma and U.S. Policy Toward Burma

April 12, 2001

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Report to the Congress Regarding Conditions in Burma and U.S. Policy Toward Burma

Pursuant to the requirements set forth under the heading "Policy Toward Burma" in section 570(d) of the Fiscal Year 1997 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, as contained in the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 104-208), a report is required every 6 months following enactment concerning:

- 1) progress toward democratization in Burma;
- 2) progress on improving the quality of life of the Burmese people, including progress on market reforms, living standards, labor standards, use of forced labor in the tourism industry, and environmental quality; and
- 3) progress made in developing a comprehensive, multilateral strategy to bring democracy to and improve human rights practices and the quality of life in Burma, including the development of a dialogue between the State Peace and Development Council and democratic opposition groups in Burma.

You are hereby authorized and directed to transmit the attached report fulfilling these requirements for the period September 28, 2000, through March 27, 2001, to the appropriate committees of the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 13, and it was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Compliance With the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty

April 12, 2001

Dear _____:

Attached is the 2000 Report on CFE Compliance. The report is prepared pursuant to Condition 5(C) of the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Document Agreed Among the States Parties to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe of November 19, 1990. The report was prepared by the previous Administration.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Richard A. Gephardt, House minority leader; Jesse Helms, chairman, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 13, and it was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

April 14, 2001

Good morning. This weekend I am at home in Crawford, Texas, with my wife and my family. Millions of other families are also spending time together this weekend, and Laura and I wish you all a happy Easter.

Our thoughts are also with the men and women of our military, deployed around the world and away from their families. They have our sincere gratitude. And on this holiday, we offer the thanks of our Nation to

the 24 service men and women who are no longer in China and are now home.

This weekend also marks the close of Passover, when Jews recall their deliverance from oppression. We hope this Passover has been a time of reflection and renewal.

Renewal is the hope of every person and the promise of many religions. This season signifies the hope of renewal, a reawakening, a fresh vision of our lives and our possibilities. And in this season, we are reminded that on the path of renewal, we are not alone. We have one another, family members and friends, who know us and accept us as we are. And if we're very fortunate, we have people in our lives who see us not just as we are but also as we can be. That is the love of family.

And many of us trust a Creator who knows us and loves us and has a plan for our lives. We cannot know where that plan will lead us on Earth, but we are assured that it leads nearer to God. This is the comfort of faith.

In this season of renewal, we remember that failures in life are never final, that hope leads us closer to the truth, that in the end, even death itself will be defeated. And that is the shared belief of many faiths, and that is the promise of Easter morning.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9 a.m. on April 12 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on April 14. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 13 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

Remarks to the United States Chamber of Commerce

April 16, 2001

Thank you very much. Kelly, thank you very much for that kind introduction. It's an honor for me to be here. Tom, thank you for opening up this fantastic facility. I am thrilled to know that some of my former Governors are with members of the chambers in their respective States, and I want to say hello to them. I thank all those who are tuning in. It's kind of nice to be able to speak to so many folks in so many cities without having to fire up Air Force One. *[Laughter]*

I'm especially honored to be able to speak to the folks who really help our economy grow, the entrepreneurs, the business folks of America, the employers, the risk takers, the people who really work hard to realize the great American Dream.

As Kelly said, this is tax day. All across America, husbands and wives spent last weekend side-by-side at the kitchen table trying to finish their 1040s. You have to say this for the income tax, it tends to bring families together. *[Laughter]*

The Internal Revenue Service asks our families in America a lot of questions: How much did you earn? Did you move last year? How big is your mortgage payment? You know, the truth of the matter is, the IRS knows more about us than our neighbors do. In a lot of cases, they know more about us than our families do. But while the tax system knows a lot about our citizens, there's a lot our citizens may not know about our tax system.

In 2001 the Federal Government will take a bigger share of the U.S. economy in taxes than in any year since 1944. And I remind you, in 1944 we had 11.5 million people under arms. The Federal Government will take more as a percentage of the national economy this year than it did during World War II, except for one year, more than any year of the Vietnam war or the Korean conflict, more than it took to win World War I or prevail in the cold war. Our country is at peace, but our Government is charging wartime prices. Enough is enough. The American people deserve tax relief.

You often hear it said, we cannot afford tax relief. But even after adjusting for inflation, the U.S. Government will collect twice as much income tax revenue in 2001 as it did in 1981. Enough is enough, folks. It's time to give our folks some tax relief in America.

During the budget debates in Washington, some Members of Congress complained that they did not have enough money to spend, but in 2001 the income tax will yield 2 billion in revenues for each and every one of the 535 Members of Congress. I think they should be able to get by on that—*[laughter]*—even the Senators. *[Laughter]* No,

enough's enough. People in America deserve tax relief.

Thanks to the help of a lot of folks here and all around the country, tax relief is on the way. The American taxpayer won some important victories a couple of weeks ago. The House of Representatives voted in favor of a plan that I think is an important plan, 1.6 trillion in tax relief over the next 10 years. The Senate approved most of my tax plan but wants the Government to spend far more.

Some Members of the Senate are, unfortunately, proving the point I make all across the country: If you send it, they will spend it. [Laughter] Federal discretionary spending rose by 8 percent in 2001. The Senate has just voted to increase the discretionary spending by another 8 percent in 2002. At that rate, Federal discretionary spending will double by 2010. Think about that. If we keep spending at the pace the Senate wants, in only 9 years' time Government operations will cost twice as much as they do today.

Now, Senators are in their home States this week listening to the taxpayers. I hope Americans will send a clear message: Excessive Federal spending threatens economic vitality. What we want is a stronger economy, not larger Federal Government.

There's a better way: Increase discretionary spending by a moderate and responsible 4 percent—by the way, at a rate larger than inflation—and then reduce taxes for everyone who pays taxes.

My plan does not puncture the Tax Code with loopholes. It doesn't give special treatment to special interests. My plan targets only one interest, the public interest. It directs help to individuals and families and small businesses. It is a plan for real people, and it will help produce real prosperity.

Let me tell you a little bit about what tax relief means for American families. My plan, when fully implemented, returns about \$1,600 to the typical family of four. Sixteen-hundred pays the typical mortgage for more than a month. Sixteen-hundred will buy the typical family nearly 3 months worth of groceries. Sixteen-hundred will fuel two cars for a year.

There are a lot of American mothers and dads who wake up in America today anxious

over bills they have to pay. Their worries don't get any easier when the Federal Government takes more of their income in taxes than they pay for food, shelter, and clothing. For families with children to raise and debts to pay, tax relief will lift burdens and ease worries.

For small businesses, tax relief means more customers and improved cash flow, more money to hire more workers, more money to expand benefits, more money to invest in new technology. Tax relief will create new jobs. Tax relief will generate new wealth, and tax relief will open new opportunities.

If you read some of the news accounts of this budget debate, if you listen to what some of the Members of Congress say, you'd think that little of value can ever happen in America unless the Government makes it happen. You'd think that when we return money to the taxpayers, it evaporates into the air.

Let me tell you some of the things 1.6 trillion could mean to the private economy. It could buy 10 million new middle income homes. It could pay the tuitions of 26 million young people at a private college or university for 4 years each. It could purchase 76 million new automobiles. These are the kinds of things Americans do with their own money. And there are many others.

Just ask Tommy and Sharen Winfield, for example. They're watching via closed circuit here from Atlanta, Georgia. The Winfields have three children. Tommy has been working as an operating engineer at Children's Hospital of Atlanta for the past 3 years. They pay \$1,380 in Federal income taxes. Under my plan, they'd pay nothing.

I first met Tommy a few weeks ago, and we were having a roundtable discussion about tax relief. I asked him whether he thought the relief would make a difference to his family—you see, there are some who say, "Thirteen-eighty, that's nothing. That's not enough money for anybody." But let me tell you what Tommy said loud and clear, and I hope the Members of the United States Congress hear it. Tommy said, "Sir, if they don't believe you"—meaning, whether or not tax relief means anything—"then they should just ask me." Thirteen-eighty means a lot to Tommy. It means a lot to a lot of folks in

America: those who are struggling with higher energy bills because we hadn't had an energy policy; those who have got big credit card debts.

We've got the Blake family with us from Alexandria, Virginia, Kelly and Pam—one less son. [*Laughter*] They pay \$4,000 in Federal income tax. Under my plan, they will save \$1,700. That's real money for this hard-working couple. They and their two sons, I can assure you, will find good use for that tax relief. And whatever they do, I strongly believe they will spend it better and more productively than the Federal Government can.

This is an important debate for our country. It's a debate about how to make sure our economy continues to grow. But it's really a debate about, who do we trust? Who do—those of us who have been honored to serve our country at the Federal level—who do we trust with the people's money? Do we trust our Government, or do we trust the people? I believe, after we meet priorities—and we meet priorities by growing the discretionary budget by 4 percent—that we always have got to remember whose money it is we're talking about. It's not the Government's money; it's the people's money.

And we've always got to remember, the role of Government is not to create wealth. It's to create an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish, in which the small business can grow to become a big business. That's the role of Government. And that's why it's vital at this point in American history that we return money back to the people. Instead of returning money, we ought not to take it in the first place, with real meaningful tax relief.

I've learned that the people can make a big difference in a lot of debates, particularly the tax relief debate. We're making some pretty good progress. I saw a good Democrat Senator out of Georgia the other day. Max Cleland said that he is interested in—when he comes back—interested in supporting the \$1.6 trillion plan. I think that's what he said. It certainly sounded like it to me. [*Laughter*] And that's a good sign. I appreciate the Senator going home and listening to the people.

You see, I think we've finally made the case that we can meet the obligations of the

Federal Government, that we don't have to grow at 8 percent in order to meet obligations. We've also made the case that sending money back to the people is important for our economy and important for the American Dream. And I want to thank your help for it.

I want to invite all Americans to take a look at the budget plan themselves. You can order the little book by calling 202-512-1800, and ask for the Citizen's Guide to the Federal Budget. Or you can download it for free at www.whitehouse.gov/government.

It's important for you to follow your Government closely. It's important for you to not let the filter decide what's reality and what's not reality. It's important to get the facts. And it's always important to understand that tax relief will stimulate creativity and enterprise for individual Americans.

I firmly believe tax relief means a better life in a more prosperous America. So let the Members of Congress know when they come back that you're watching, that you care for what they do because it will affect your life in a positive way.

I can't thank you all enough for your support, and I can't thank you enough for letting me come by and make my case.

God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:25 p.m. in the Hall of Flags at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. In his remarks, he referred to Kelly N. Stanley, chairman, and Thomas J. Donohue, president and chief executive officer, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Tommy and Sharon Winfield's children, Joy and Tiffany Winfield and Ager Hilson; and Kelly and Pam Blake's children, Jeremy and Jared.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Ricardo Lagos of Chile and an Exchange With Reporters

April 16, 2001

Chile-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

President Bush. I'm very honored to welcome the President of Chile here to the Oval Office. Chile is a remarkable country. It's a country that is a strong democracy, that has shown people in this hemisphere the importance of rule of law. I look forward to renewing a friendship with the President.

I also look forward to talking about free trade. I'm confident that by the time this year is over we will conclude a free trade agreement with Chile. It's in our Nation's best interest to do so. And finally, I think some Members of Congress could take a good—could take some lessons from Chile, particularly when it comes to how to run our pension plans. Our Social Security system needs to be modernized, Mr. President, and I look forward to getting some suggestions as to how to do so, since you have done so, so well.

But anyway, I welcome you to our country. And thank you very much for being here.

President Lagos. I would like to take this opportunity, and I would like to say that I agree with the President that our team has to work hard, very hard, in order to be able to conclude an agreement by the end of the year. And this is so, I'm sure, that the shared investment in our countries are going to increase for the benefit of our population in order to give equal opportunities to everybody.

We have common shares and common goals, not only common interests but common shares and values with the U.S., in democracy, respect to human rights, a market economy. And we are trying to do the best to have equal opportunities for everybody. And I think that these are the major goals for your administration, our administration. And we have to work in that direction. I'm sure that the trade agreement, if we are able to conclude, is going to be important to go in this direction.

Thank you.

President Bush. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Mr. President, thank you, sir.

President Bush. The ground rules are: a question from the American side and then a question from the Chilean side.

Trade Promotion Authority

Q. Sir, last August, when you were a candidate, you said in Miami that when the next President sits at the American Summit, other nations must know that fast-track trade authority is on the way. Why are you going to Quebec with no promise of fast-track author-

ity, and are you willing to compromise with Democrats to get it?

President Bush. Well, I'd certainly like to have what they call fast-track authority. It would—most Presidents have had it. It's important for the President to fight for the right to be able to negotiate trade agreements without amendment. I believe we're making progress toward regaining that power for the President.

In the meantime, we can negotiate a bilateral treaty with Chile. It's a separate issue. I'm confident we can get it done, Mr. President. Ambassador Zoellick is here. Ambassador Zoellick and the rest of my administration are committed to not only having a good trade agreement with Chile, but also giving the President the trade promotion authority. And we'll discuss ways to get it out of the Congress when the Congress gets back.

I had a meeting with the leadership on both sides of the aisle to talk about trade promotion authority. I believe we can get—I believe we can get it done. It's going to require a lot of hard work and effort to do so.

Q. Are you willing to compromise to do it, sir?

President Bush. See, what happens here in American politics, Mr. President, is people are always trying to get me to put my cards on the table. [Laughter]

President Lagos. That's the same down there, you know. [Laughter]

President Bush. That happens in Chile, too? [Laughter]

Arms Sales to Chile

Q. Mr. President, Chile is looking to buy F-16 planes to the United States, to modernize their army. What do you think of the sales of sophisticated arms to Latin America? Are you willing to support the requests of Chile?

President Bush. I'm willing to discuss this matter with the President. I look forward to this being on the agenda that we're about to have. And we will listen to any request that our friends in our hemisphere make. I will tell you this, I am confident that Chile is a peaceful nation. I'm confident that they're a democracy that's—that intends to

make the world more peaceful. And that's a good place to begin our discussion.

Thank you, all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:55 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Proclamation 7427—National Volunteer Week, 2001

April 16, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

America is blessed with millions of individuals of good will and good works who play significant roles in making positive change in the lives of others.

While Government has great responsibilities for public safety and public health, for civil rights and common schools, compassion is the work of a Nation. Caring requires more than Government alone can provide. Many of society's greatest problems can only be solved on a personal level, between those who care and those in need.

During times of war and natural disaster, Americans have provided relief to those in need. Yet every day there are less publicized instances of human need to which America's quiet heroes respond with equal strength and vigor. Americans contribute food to soup kitchens and clothes to shelters and give love to at-risk children, counsel to those who have been abused, and friendship to those in hospitals and nursing homes. From building a new home for a young family to bringing a meal to an elderly neighbor who is housebound, there are countless ways we can invest our time and resources to provide compassionate help to our neighbors.

The faith community is a particularly rich source of volunteer strength in America. Government can rally a military, but it cannot put hope in our hearts or a sense of purpose in our lives. Faith motivates countless volunteers and calls on them to use their talents to improve their neighborhoods in ways that are beyond Government's know-how. Church and charity, synagogue, and mosque

form an essential part of our communities and their indispensable work must have an honored place in our plans and in our laws. Government can and should unleash the best impulses of the American spirit by welcoming faith-based organizations, as well as other community groups, as partners in encouraging the high calling of serving others.

This week provides an opportunity to thank those who give so much throughout the year to help those less fortunate. It should also serve as a challenge to each of us to devote more energy to seeking a common good beyond our comfort. What individual Americans do is more important than anything Government does. We must all heed Albert Schweitzer's counsel: "The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 22 through 28, 2001, as National Volunteer Week. During this week, I call on all Americans to celebrate the invaluable work that volunteers do everyday across our country.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 18, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 19.

Remarks to the Organization of American States

April 17, 2001

Mr. Ambassador, thank you very much. Secretary General, distinguished Ambassadors, it's a pleasure for me to be here at the OAS. Thank you for having me.

I want to recognize, before I begin, Luigi Einaudi. He has ably served our Government

for decades. He's now lent his skills and experience to the OAS. It is clear that he and the Secretary General have made a very good team. Thank you, Mr. Ambassador.

As I prepare to go to the Summit of the Americas in Quebec, I thought it was important to make a visit to the house of the Americas. It was a good meeting. I just had a good meeting with the Secretary General. We had a good discussion about the future of the OAS and its important role. We discussed opportunities and challenges that our hemisphere faces.

Today I want to speak with you about our shared future and the important role the OAS will play in helping to shape it. Our gathering in Quebec comes at a remarkable moment in history. All the nations of this hemisphere, save one, have embraced a collective commitment to democracy and to the fundamental freedoms that underlie democracy.

We have embraced a collective challenge to build a hemisphere that trades in freedom and grows in prosperity. We have embraced a collective responsibility to break down the barriers of poverty, disease, ignorance, so individuals may better realize their full, God-given potential. The OAS has an important role to play in these common goals.

In lands where liberty is threatened by corruption, drugs, and human rights abuses, the OAS is helping combat these destructive forces. Along borders where tensions run high, the OAS helps build confidence and avoid crises. And in lands where freedom's hold is fragile, the OAS is there to strengthen it.

The OAS's recent work in Peru is an example of this organization's commitment to democracy. The election, held there on April the 8th, was peaceful and well-run. And we know this: It is a direct result of the Secretary General's involvement. And our hemisphere is grateful, Mr. Secretary.

We need to build on successes like these. The United States hopes, for example, that the OAS can serve as a valuable mediator in Haiti between President Aristide and the democratic opposition. We also need to build on the progress the OAS has made in the fight against drug trafficking and abuse. Thanks to the Inter-American Drug Abuse

Control Commission, our hemisphere is more united in addressing this problem, both in supply and, I might remind you, in demand than it has ever been before. And the Commission's new evaluation system for monitoring nations' progress in fighting drugs is a major achievement.

In this week's Quebec Summit, our goal is simple yet profound. The discussions we hold and the mandates we produce must help improve the lives of people throughout our hemisphere. A summit is given meaning and value by concrete results. We must strengthen democratic institutions in this hemisphere to give reality to the forms of democracy. This means improving judicial institutions and making government more open.

Good government is essential to building the trust of our citizens. And democratic values must remain the core of our hemispheric familia. As Prime Minister Chretien so aptly said in this very hall last February, "We must ensure that smaller economies are provided the assistance they need to implement trade agreements and to realize the full benefits of a more integrated hemisphere."

We must extend the benefits of education in this hemisphere. Both development and democracy in the long term depend on education. We must build the skills and reward the hopes of all our people. And we must affirm our commitment to complete negotiations on the Free Trade Area of the Americas by January 2005. Nothing we do in Quebec will be more important or have a greater long-term impact. It will make our hemisphere the largest free trade area in the world, encompassing 34 countries and 800 million people.

There's a vital link between freedom of people and freedom of commerce. Democratic freedoms cannot flourish unless our hemisphere also builds a prosperity whose benefits are widely shared. And open trade is the essential foundation for that prosperity and that possibility.

Open trade fuels the engines of economic growth that creates new jobs and new income. It applies the power of markets to the needs of the poor. It spurs the process of economic and legal reform. It helps dismantle protectionist bureaucracies that stifle incentive and invite corruption, and open

trade reinforces the habits of liberty that sustain democracy over the long term.

For all these reasons, my administration is committed to pursuing open trade at every opportunity. We'll pursue open trade bilaterally with individual nations such as Chile and Singapore and Jordan. We'll pursue open trade globally through a new round of multilateral negotiations. We want to open global markets so that our farmers and ranchers and workers and service providers and high-tech entrepreneurs can enjoy the benefits of a more integrated world. And of course, we'll pursue these goals throughout our hemisphere through the Free Trade Area of the Americas.

Since open trade is one of my top priorities for our hemisphere, gaining U.S. trade promotion authority is one of my top priorities in Congress. I made this clear in my first address to the Congress. We have reinforced this message in meetings my Cabinet officers and I have had with over 100 Members of Congress. Trade promotion authority gives our trading partners confidence that they can rely on the deals that they negotiate. It allows us to seize opportunities to expand the circle of trade and prosperity.

We're now actively working with Congress on a strategy for passing legislation granting the trade promotion authority. We'll intensify this effort when I return from Quebec, and I'm confident we'll succeed.

Shortly after the summit, we'll also publish the initial working draft of our hemispheric free trade agreement. This will allow our citizens from all our countries to see what is being negotiated and give them a chance to provide their views on this important document.

Just a few moments ago, the Secretary General and I walked from his office, and we passed the Hall of Heroes. The great leaders honored there embody the spirit of cooperation that characterizes the OAS. These visionaries imagined a future in which the Americas would be bound together in a common effort to create a hemisphere that is both free and prosperous.

Today, we have the opportunity to realize that dream. Together, it is our responsibility to seize the moment.

Thank you for having me.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:45 p.m. in the Hall of the Americas at the Organization of American States headquarters building. In his remarks, he referred to Colombian Ambassador to the OAS Humberto de la Calle, who introduced the President; OAS Secretary General César Gaviria; OAS Assistant Secretary General Luigi R. Einaudi; President Jean-Bertrand Aristide of Haiti; and Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada. A portion of the President's opening remarks were in Spanish and a translation was provided on the White House transcript.

Statement on Environmental Protection Agency Action on Lead Poisoning

April 17, 2001

I support Administrator Whitman's decision to implement a rule to significantly expand and disclose the information available to the public about the presence of lead and lead emissions in their communities.

Lead is a persistent and highly toxic substance that can cause a range of environmental and health problems. It has an especially harmful impact on the health of children and infants. And it is found too often in some of America's older, poorer communities. Under this new rule, workers, consumers, and communities will be provided crucial information about the presence of this toxic substance.

To assist in complying with this rule, I have asked Administrator Whitman to provide technical assistance to affected small businesses to help them prepare their first reports.

This is an important and responsible approach that will protect American families and our environment from unnecessary exposure to lead. My administration will continue to support and promote efforts based on sound science to clean our air, water, and land.

Proclamation 7428—National Park Week, 2001

April 17, 2001

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

The United States boasts an incredible wealth of natural beauty. From rugged coastlines and thick forests to arid deserts and canyons, our diverse landscapes represent a treasured heritage of which all Americans can be proud.

Our country's commitment to the conservation of its open spaces runs deep. The Nation founded Yellowstone National Park in 1872 and thereby generated renewed appreciation for the great outdoors among Americans. Our country's actions inspired other countries to follow suit by establishing their own national parks or equivalent preserves.

Since the establishment of the National Park Service in 1916, our national parks have grown to occupy a special place in the hearts of the American people. As responsible stewards, we must leave them in good condition for those who follow us. By providing additional resources for their preservation and maintenance, we can prevent the deterioration in facilities and infrastructure that threatens their future well-being.

National parks are a testament to the natural wonders of our mountains, valleys, rivers, and streams. They remind us to take a break from the busy pace of modern society to experience the simpler pleasures of life and provide unique opportunities for personal recreation. Whether camping in Yosemite National Park or boating along Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, people of all ages can take in spectacular scenery and enjoy a relaxing time with family and friends.

The National Park Service also serves an educational purpose, honoring our heroes and preserving important historical landmarks. By visiting the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, the immigration station on Ellis Island or many other significant sites in our national parks, Americans gain a deeper understanding of our national story and the extraordinary people and events that

paved the way for our development and progress.

National Park Week pays tribute to the importance of our national parks and recognizes the dedicated men and women entrusted with their care. The observance also calls attention to the need to reinvest in these national treasures by providing for their sound stewardship in the years to come. As timeless and majestic reminders of our outdoor heritage, America's national parks add immensely to our quality of life and represent a wonderful legacy that must be passed on to future generations.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim April 23 through April 29, 2001, as National Park Week. I encourage all Americans to visit our national parks and experience America.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 19, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 18, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on April 20.

Memorandum on Waiver and Certification of Statutory Provisions Regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization

April 17, 2001

Presidential Determination No. 2001-13

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Waiver and Certification of Statutory Provisions Regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization

Pursuant to the authority and conditions contained in section 538(d) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2001, Public

Law 106–429, I hereby determine and certify that it is important to the national security interests of the United States to waive the provisions of section 1003 of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987, Public Law 100–204.

This waiver shall be effective for a period of 6 months from the date hereof. You are hereby authorized and directed to transmit this determination to the Congress and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 23, 2001]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 18, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on April 24.

Remarks at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, Connecticut

April 18, 2001

Thank you all. Thank you very much for that warm welcome. Governor, it's good to see you again. On the way in he heard I was going to get an honorary degree in law, and he said, "Does that make you a lawyer?" [Laughter] I said, "Nope." But it's such an honor to receive such a degree. I want to thank the chairman. I want to thank Dick Judd, and I want to thank all the folks here at Central for working so hard to make our visit a great visit.

I love your Governor. It seems like the people of Connecticut do, too. And like me, he married well. [Laughter] It's an honor to be here with the First Lady of the State of Connecticut.

Sorry Laura is not with me today. She's doing a great job as the First Lady. I'm really proud of her. I'm proud of the fact that she's got her priorities straight: her faith and her family, her country, and teachers. She's spending a lot of time not only promoting literacy, but she's going to spend a lot of time encouraging people to become teachers, to saying to folks that are young and old alike, "If you can, get in the classroom. It makes a huge difference."

And so, for the teachers who are here, we thank you from the bottom of our heart for being teachers.

And for the young who are trying to figure out what they're going to do when they get older, think about teaching. It is a noble profession, and it's an important profession.

And to the moms and dads, always remember that good teaching starts at home; that a mother and a dad must be a teacher to their children. And it starts by remembering the most important job you'll have, if you're fortunate enough to be a mom or a dad, is to be a loving mom and a loving dad, to love our children with all our heart and all our soul and all our mind. That's what it's all about.

In order for America to fulfill its promise, all of us must, if we're fortunate enough to be a parent, assume that responsibility and understand how important it is to start teaching our children at home, not only how to read and write and add and subtract but to teach them the meaning of love and hope and compassion. And we can do a better job of that in our homes in America, and we will do so. And when we do so, our classrooms will be easier places for our teachers to teach.

I'm honored to be traveling with members of the congressional delegation here from the State of Connecticut. First, Jim Maloney is here. Jim and I don't share the same party, but we share the same love for America. He serves his country because he loves America; I serve mine because I love America. We have got—figured out we can disagree in an agreeable way. It would be a lot easier if we disagreed less often. [Laughter] But nevertheless, I'm honored he's traveling with us today. Thank you, Jim.

Rob Simmons is a Congressman from Connecticut, as well. He's newly elected. They tell me he's strong in his home district, and I know why—because he's doing a fabulous job in Washington. Rob, thank you very much. The old, wily veteran, Chris Shays, is with us today. He's solid. I've gotten to know Chris, and I respect him and like him a lot. He's a good, solid citizen.

And of course, the hometown girl is here with us. Nancy Johnson brings a lot of class to Washington, DC. She's so powerful—she said, "Mr. President, you make sure you

come to my hometown if you're coming to Connecticut." I said, "Yes, ma'am." [*Laughter*]

I want to thank the three Republican Members for supporting the budget I sent to the Congress. I want to tell you something about the budget. It's a budget that sets priorities—priorities to make sure our folks who wear the uniform of the military get paid well. It's a priority that understands we can do better with health care in America. So, we double the Medicare budget; we increase the number of folks who will be served in community health centers; we have money for tax credits for the working uninsured. It's a budget that fulfills promises by making sure that we don't dip into the Social Security Trust in order to meet discretionary spending needs. It's a good budget.

It's a budget, though, that has created some problems in Washington because it grows discretionary spending by 4 percent. And that creates some tension, because there's a lot of folks up there that would rather spend a lot more money than that. But let me remind you that 4 percent growth in discretionary spending is greater than the rate of inflation. It's more money on an increase than a lot of people's paychecks have gone up by. It's a pretty good chunk of money. It's real dollars.

The tradeoff is, either you have priorities and keep discretionary spending at 4 percent and give people some of their money back or you increase the size and scope of the Federal Government. And I've made it clear, I stand on the side of the people who pay the bills in America. If we grow the discretionary spending by 8 percent, it means that in 9 years, the discretionary budget of America will double, and that will crowd out private enterprise. It will make it hard to continue to grow our economy.

I believe strongly that what we did in the House is the right thing. And I believe strongly that we're making good progress toward real, meaningful tax relief. The House had a \$1.6 trillion cut. The Senate is a little over \$1.2 trillion. And the summation of the message is: Tax relief is on the way, and it's right for America. It's the right thing for our economy, and it's the right thing to give people their own money back—actually, not take

it in the first place—so that you can make the decisions for your families, so you can save and dream and build.

The tax relief plan we submitted to the Congress says this: If you pay taxes, you ought to get relief. It says we ought not try to pick and choose winners. The role of Washington isn't to say, "You get tax relief, and you don't get tax relief." That's not the role of Washington. The role of Washington is to say, "We're going to be fair. Everybody who pays taxes ought to get relief."

We cut the rates at the bottom end, and we cut the rates at the top end. Now, I know I've heard a lot of people talking about, "Well, you can't give tax relief to the people at the top end." I say, why not? If you pay taxes, you ought to get relief. But I also want to remind people of this fact—that there are thousands of small businesses in America who are unincorporated, people who pay—who are sole proprietorships who pay taxes at the personal income level. There's a lot of small businesses who are creating new jobs who pay high taxes. And when you cut the top rate in America, what we're doing is sending this signal: The role of Government is not to create wealth; the role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish. And tax relief means more money in the pockets of small-business owners in America. Ours is a tax plan that makes the code more fair.

The marriage penalty is unfair, and we need to do something about it right now. And do you know what else is unfair? The death tax is unfair. It's unfair to farmers and ranchers and small-business owners, and it's time to get rid of it.

Now, there's a myth in Washington that says you can't have meaningful, real tax relief. But those are the folks that want to increase the size and scope of the Federal Government. And it really is a matter of who you trust. And I'd rather have the American people spending the money than the Federal Government. Once we meet priorities, I trust the people with their own money. I trust the people of central Connecticut to make the right decisions for their families. I want more people to have more money in their pockets so they can save for their children's education or so they can build for their future.

And that's what this debate is all about, as far as I'm concerned. And I'm not yielding. I remember who—because I understand this: The surplus is not the Government's money; the surplus is the people's money.

I mentioned a while ago that one of my priorities in the budget is education. The Department that gets the biggest increase of any Department in our budget is the Department of Education. It's important to spend money on education. I recognize that, and we do. And I'll talk about some of the spending initiatives that we set out. But I also want to remind you, money alone isn't going to solve our problems. And we have some problems.

Just 2 weeks ago, we received scores from the National Assessment of Education Progress; it's called the NAEP. It showed that American fourth-grade students are reading no better on average than fourth graders did 8 years ago. That's not right. The test also showed that in some neighborhoods the scores are going up, and in some neighborhoods the scores are going down, that there's a gap. And if there's a gap in literacy, you can imagine what that's going to mean in later years. And folks, we've got to do something about it in America. It's time to stop talking, and it's time to start doing something about it.

The Third International Mathematics and Science survey was released recently. It was a survey of eighth-grade students in 37 foreign countries and 13 American States. And there, the news isn't very good, either. Students in high scoring Michigan finished well behind students in Taiwan, Korea, and Japan. American students, overall, scored lower than students in Bulgaria. It's time to stop talking about things, and it's time to start doing some things to make sure our students can read and write and add and subtract. And I mean, early, before it's too late.

And that's the crux of the reforms I sent to the Congress, and I'd like to discuss those with you real quick. First, here are the principles involved. It means our Nation must set high standards and high expectations, just like Governor Rowland has done in the State of Connecticut. We've got to expect the best for every child. We cannot assume that only certain children can learn. We must have the attitude that every child in America, regard-

less of where they're raised or how they're born, can learn. Low standards will yield low results. We've got to raise the bar and expect the best in every classroom in America.

Secondly, we must trust local people to chart the path for excellence for the children of America. We must trust the Governors and local school board members and principals in schools. We must empower people at the local level, because one size does not fit all when it comes to the education of the children in America.

And thirdly, we've got to measure. We've got to hold people accountable. We've got to insist that, for example, if you receive Federal money, you measure. I don't believe the Federal Government ought to design a national test, that would undermine the local control of schools. But I do believe that in return for taxpayers' money, that the local folks ought to develop accountability measures that tells us all whether or not children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. It is so important to have an accountability system become the cornerstone of reform in America.

And we're making progress on this issue, like we're making progress on the budget. The Members will be coming back from their Easter breaks and will be taking up the education reforms. I appreciate, for example, the work of Senator Joe Lieberman. Oh, I know that may surprise some in Connecticut or elsewhere in America to hear me say something nice about a man that tried to prevent me from becoming the President. *[Laughter]* But nevertheless, like me, he's put aside the election, and he's focusing on what's right for America, and he's helping bring forth an education plan that embodies the principles that I just described. And I appreciate his hard work and his support on this measure. And we've agreed on some core principles.

We haven't agreed 100 percent all across the board, but we're making good progress. For example, we've agreed on a major consolidation of Federal education programs that will give States more flexibility and more freedom. In other words, to put it this way, instead of having Federal money with all kinds of strings attached to it, we're having

Federal spending, Federal money, but trusting the local folks to spend that money that meets the needs of each respective State.

We're making great progress on what I've called a Reading First initiative. The budget I submitted triples the amount of money to help fight illiteracy in schools. It says that if a State wants to, you can access the Federal money, but you develop a K-through-2 diagnostic tool to make sure kindergarten teachers through second-grade teachers have got the ability to discern which children need extra help. It means you've got to develop a curriculum that works. By the way, phonics needs to be a part of our curriculum in America.

And as importantly, it provides money for intensive instruction. So when you find a child who may be lagging behind, instead of just shuffling him or her through the system, we say, "What can we do to help you? What can we do to make sure you're up to speed early, before it's too late?" So it's an intensive program that says that each child is important, and each child must be assessed. And when we find failure, let's get it addressed early, before it's too late, because we don't want one single child left behind in America.

And we're making good progress on strong accountability systems, which I just described, that says, if you receive Federal money, you measure—three through eight—so we know. Some States post scores on the Internet. I know there's a lot of discussion about parental involvement. There's nothing like getting a mom involved by posting lousy scores on the Internet. There's nothing like saying to somebody, "The school may not be quite what you think it is, and therefore, we're going to let you know what the results are by comparing it from one school to the next." No, results are important.

By the way, what's important about results is it begins to change the whole attitude in the schools. Schools used to say—and still do in some places—they ask the question, "Gosh, how old are you? Well, if you're 8, you're supposed to be here, and if you're 12, we'll put you here, and if you're 16, you belong here." And by having accountability as the cornerstone of reform, we begin to ask the question, "What do you know? What do you know?" It's a fundamental change of

questions, isn't it? What do you know, instead of how old you are.

And if you don't know what you're supposed to know, ours is a society that will work hard to make sure you do. For an accountability system to matter, there must be consequences. We just can't accept failure when we find it; something must happen. And we're making great progress to provide parents more options when we discover failure, when we find the schools won't change their teaching methodologies, for example, when they can't meet standards—options, such as charter schools or public school choice or private tutoring programs. And we're finding consensus to make sure that the accountability system has got some teeth to it, that there is a consequence for failure and, oh, by the way, a consequence for success, as well.

Johnny and I have just come from B.W. Tinker School. It's good to have the B.W. Tinker PTA here—[laughter]—which, by the way, is an active PTA, I'm told. But the students were seriously underperforming 8 years ago on the mastery test. Step one is, the State at least was measuring, so we knew. You see, you can't make that statement—the students were vastly underperforming on the mastery test—unless there was such a thing as the mastery test.

Now because of two great principals, both of whom I met—and by the way, it's also—it should be clear to everybody, I hope, in America that a good principal, a great principal will make a huge difference in the education of the children. Paul and Lauren, they use the tests to refocus the curriculum and the teaching methodology of that school. In other words, they use the test for what it's designed to be for, and that is, as a way to correct problems. Tests should not be viewed as a way to punish people; tests need to be viewed as a way to correct problems. And they did so. And they intensified the students' reading programs and writing programs.

We went to a very unusual writing program. It floored Congressman Johnson and me when we saw the task at hand. It was a very sophisticated writing program for a bunch of little ones. But they intensified the effort differently, and they said, "We can do

better.” They set the bar higher. And now, nearly two-thirds of the Tinker students showed mastery in math. That’s up 40 percent since 1993. And more than three-quarters showed mastery in writing. That’s up 36 percent.

In other words, the entrepreneurs, the educational entrepreneurs took hold of the situation. They used the information systems to say, “Something’s not right. Now, let’s do something about it.” And they have. And B.W. Tinker students are better off for it, and I’m glad I went to see that school.

Oh, I know it’s hard for some to accept accountability as the cornerstone for reform. You’ll hear all kinds of excuses. I heard them as the Governor of Texas; I’m sure Johnny’s heard them. You’ll hear people say, “Well, that’s too much Government. We can’t have that kind of Government.” My attitude is, the Government ought to be results-oriented, not process-oriented. The Government ought to ask the people, “What are the results?” And if the results aren’t good enough, we better expect a better return for taxpayers’ money.

And you’ll hear people say, “Well, you can’t test because it’s racist to test.” Folks, let me tell you this as plainly as I can: It’s racist not to test. It is racist not to measure. Because guess who gets shuffled through the system—children whose parents don’t speak English as a first language. It’s so much easier to quit on some newly arrived to our country. “It’s too hard to educate this person. We’ll just move him through. We’ll ask him how old they are and put them here, regardless of whether they can read and write.” Inner-city kids—it’s so much easier to walk into a classroom of inner-city kids and say, “These kids are too hard to educate. We’ll move them through.” Those days have got to end in America. What we need to do is to make sure not one child gets left behind.

And I aim to do something about math, as well. I’ve been spending a lot of time talking about reading, but in my budget I want to point up a couple of programs that I think make sense: \$200 million for States to develop math and science partnership programs with local education districts, as well as higher education institutions—an opportunity to be able to combine the two.

We’ve got money in our budget for loan forgiveness for math and science graduates who teach in high needed schools for up to 5 years. And that’s to defer loans from \$5,000 to \$17,500 of loan forgiveness. And as importantly, we increase teacher training funds, up to \$2.6 billion in the year 2002—up 15 percent from 2001—and provide States the flexibility needed to make sure that the teacher training matches the needs in the classrooms across the State of Connecticut, for example.

Now, this budget is good. Now, they’ll be arguing about spending more money or not spending more money. But the budget we submitted, coupled with the reforms that we’re asking for, will make a huge difference in making sure that we meet a goal that’s not a Republican goal, and it’s not a Democratic goal; it’s an American goal of making sure every child in America gets educated.

And one other aspect of the education program I want to share with you is, also, we triple the amount of money for character education in our classrooms. Education is not complete unless we’re willing to teach our children not only how to read and write but the difference between right and wrong. We ought not to fear to teach our children good, old-fashioned values that have stood the test of time: Don’t lie, cheat, or steal; respect others; respect their opinions.

We also have got a program that says, in the after-school programs—we spend all kinds of money for after-school programs—but I think it’s so important for us to open up those after-school programs to faith-based and community-based programs that will be able to say—that sends a clear message, that if you exist because of the universal call to love a neighbor just like you would like to be loved yourself, you’re welcome on to the public school grounds in an after-school program to teach children right from wrong, to teach them that somebody in our society cares for them, which really leads me to a bigger point and a bigger mission for all of us. And that is, how to usher in a period of responsibility in America.

I think I can help with that, and I think all of us in Washington can help with that by, first of all, working together to change the tone in our Nation’s Capital. It means that we’ve got to have a spirit of respect in

Washington. We've got to end this kind of needless name-calling and finger-pointing, the kind of zero-sum politics that says if so-and-so thinks it's a good idea, I think it's a lousy idea, because we happen to be from different political parties.

I think we need to respect each other more in Washington, which will, in turn, set a good signal for people on the playgrounds of America, for example, to respect somebody with whom they may not agree. We need a culture of results in Washington, DC—less noise, less preening in front of cameras, and more focus on getting things done on behalf of the American people. And we need a spirit of responsibility. And it starts with leadership, as well, that each of us understand the awesome responsibilities of the jobs we hold.

I think we're making progress in the Nation's Capital, I truly do. Oh, I know there's occasionally somebody says something, particularly about a nice fellow like me, that I don't like—[laughter]—but I tend to ignore it and focus on the people's business. And the people's business is what's important. And that's why I love to travel outside of Washington. I love to drive the roads of our country, just like I did today, and see the hundreds of people who came to wave at the Presidential limousine. It's important for a President to see that and for Members of Congress to be aware of that, as well, because it reminds us about the strength of America.

And the strength of this country lies not inside the halls of our Government in Washington, DC, or in Hartford, Connecticut. The true strength of America lies in the hearts and souls of the American citizens.

And that's why I'm so optimistic about this country's future, because if that's the case, if the true strength of America is in the hearts and souls of our citizens, we've got a bright future ahead of us, because we've got great citizens in this country.

This is a fabulous country. In Washington, we've got to always understand that. That's why tax relief is important, because it empowers people to make decisions in their lives. That's why the Faith-Based Initiative I've talked about is important, because it says that in order to change lives, we need to change hearts, and there are thousands of

people who are willing to love a neighbor, just like they'd like to be loved themselves.

No, the great strength is when we understand America's society changes one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. And that's oftentimes because some loving American, not because of Government but because of care and compassion, says to a neighbor in need, "What can I do to help?" I hope to see mentoring programs flourish all across America. I want any child who wonders whether somebody loves them to have a loving adult say, "I love you. I love you with all the bottom of my heart."

No, this country is based upon great values and great principles. But its true greatness is the fact that we're a land full of decent, loving, and compassionate and hard-working people. And I can't tell you what a huge honor it is to be a President of such a land.

God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:40 p.m. in the Welte Auditorium. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. John G. Rowland of Connecticut and his wife, Patricia; Lawrence D. McHugh, chairman, board of trustees, Connecticut State University System; Richard L. Judd, president, Central Connecticut State University; and Lauren F. Elias, principal, and Paul V. Ciochetti, former principal, B.W. Tinker Elementary School.

Remarks at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

April 18, 2001

Thank you very much. This is a hallowed place. Please behave yourself.

It's an honor for us to be here. Laura and I have just come from a fantastic tour. I want to thank Rabbi Greenberg for his hospitality, and Ruth Mandel for her hospitality, and the Director, Sara Bloomfield, for giving us such a special evening. Thank you all very much for your graciousness, and I want to thank you all very much for coming. And it's an honor for me to be here with members of my White House staff, friends of mine from all around the country.

This isn't like any other museum. It bears witness to the best and to the worst of the human heart. The images here stay with you, and only by confronting them can we begin

to grasp the full enormity of the Holocaust. I urge Americans planning a visit to Washington to come here, themselves, and see what we have just seen.

History records many atrocities before and after the 1930s and 1940s. But it was the Holocaust that forced us to find a new term for horrors on such a scale—a crime against humanity. Human evil has never been so ambitious in scope, so systematic in execution, and so deliberate in its destruction.

In places like this, the evidence has been kept. Without it, we might forget the past, and we might neglect the future. And we must never forget. We must always remember both the cruelty of the guilty and the courage and innocence of their victims.

So many stories from the concentration camps will never be told because many of the witnesses did not survive. The stories we have must be preserved forever: Stories of mothers sacrificing themselves to save their children; stories of children trying to shield their parents; stories of men and women praying and comforting one another in the last moments on this Earth. These tell the greater truth of the Holocaust: The evil is real, but hope endures.

Above all, this museum is a testament to hope. Tomorrow I will have the honor of joining in the Days of Remembrance observances at the Capitol. I will convey America's commitment to the memory of 6 million who died in the Holocaust, our commitment to averting future tragedies, and our commitment to a friend, as a friend, to the Jewish people—to their cause and to the nation they built.

I hope to see many of you at the Capitol tomorrow.

Thank you all for coming, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:50 p.m. in the Hall of Witness. In his remarks, he referred to Rabbi Irving Greenberg, chair, and Ruth B. Mandel, vice chair, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council; and Sara J. Bloomfield, director, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Remarks Announcing Support for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

April 19, 2001

Thank you all for coming. Secretary Powell and Administrator Whitman and I are pleased to make an announcement on the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. This international agreement would restrict the use of 12 dangerous chemicals—POPs, as they are known, or the “dirty dozen.” Negotiations were begun by the previous administration, and this treaty achieves a goal shared by this administration. I’m pleased to announce my support for the treaty and the intention of our Government to sign and submit it for approval by the United States Senate.

This convention is significant in several respects. First, concerns over the hazards of PCBs, DDT, and the other toxic chemicals covered by the agreement are based on solid scientific information. These pollutants are linked to developmental defects, cancer, and other grave problems in humans and animals. The risks are great, and the need for action is clear. We must work to eliminate, or at least to severely restrict, the release of these toxins without delay.

Second, this agreement addresses a global environmental problem. These chemicals respect no boundaries and can harm Americans even when released abroad.

Third, this treaty takes into account the understandable concerns of less-developed nations. When these chemicals are used they pose a health and environmental threat, no matter where in the world they’re allowed to spread. But some nations with fewer resources have a harder time addressing these threats, and this treaty promises to lend them a hand.

And finally, this treaty shows the possibilities for cooperation among all parties to our environmental debates. Developed nations cooperated with less-developed nations. Businesses cooperated with environmental

groups. And now, a Republican administration will continue and complete the work of a Democratic administration.

This is the way environmental policy should work. And I want to thank the United States delegation and all who helped negotiate this important treaty. And after our remarks here, we would like to welcome you in the Oval Office so I can thank you personally.

Mr. Secretary.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:20 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Secretary of State Colin L. Powell and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christine Todd Whitman.

Remarks on the Observance of the National Days of Remembrance

April 19, 2001

Members of Congress, members of my Cabinet, Ambassador Ivry, Elie Wiesel, Benjamin Meed and other survivors, Rabbi Greenberg and Dr. Mandel, ladies and gentlemen: Laura and I thank you for asking us to join you on this Day of Remembrance.

Some days are set aside to recall the great and hopeful moments of human experience. Other days, like today, we turn our minds to painful events. In doing so, we honor the courage and suffering of martyrs and heroes. We also seek the wisdom and courage to prevent future tragedies and future evils.

World War II ended and camps were liberated before many of us were born. The events we recall today have the safe distance of history, and there will come a time when the eyewitnesses are gone. And that is why we are bound by conscience to remember what happened, and to whom it happened.

During the war, a Nazi guard told Simon Wiesenthal that in time no one would believe his account of what he saw. Evil on so grand a scale would seem incredible. Yet, we do not just believe; we know. We know because the evidence has been kept; the record has been preserved.

It is fitting to remember the Holocaust under the dome of our Nation's Capitol, with Members of the United States Congress who

are here. Some Members had relatives among the victims. Some of you played a part in the liberation of Europe. One Congressman here today fought in the underground, and he, himself, was put into forced labor by the Nazis. We are honored by the presence of the gentleman from California, Tom Lantos.

We remember at the Capitol because the United States has accepted a special role: We strive to be a refuge for the persecuted; we are called by history and by conscience to defend the oppressed; our country stands on watch for the rise of tyranny, and history's worst tyrants have always reserved a special hatred for the Jewish people. Tyrants and dictators will accept no other gods before them. They require disobedience to the First Commandment. They seek absolute control and are threatened by faith in God. They fear only the power they cannot possess, the power of truth.

So they resent the living example of the devout, especially the devotion of a unique people, chosen by God. Through centuries of struggle, Jews across the world have been witnesses not only against the crimes of men but for faith in God and God alone. Theirs is a story of defiance and oppression and patience and tribulation, reaching back to the Exodus and their exile. That story continued in the founding of the State of Israel. That story continues in the defense of the State of Israel.

When we remember the Holocaust and to whom it happened, we also must remember where it happened. It didn't happen in some remote or unfamiliar place; it happened right in the middle of the Western world. Trains carrying men, women, and children in cattle cars departed from Paris and Vienna, Frankfurt and Warsaw. And the orders came not from crude and uneducated men but from men who regarded themselves as cultured and well-schooled, modern, and even forward-looking. They had all the outward traits of cultured men, except for conscience.

Their crimes show the world that evil can slip in and blend in amid the most civilized of surroundings. In the end, only conscience

can stop it. And moral discernment and decency and tolerance—these can never be assured in any time or in any society. They must always be taught.

Yesterday I had the honor of visiting the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, surrounded by the familiar buildings and symbols of our democratic Government. Outside the museum are expressions of the best of mankind's earthly aspirations; inside are images realized of the worst possibilities of the human mind, the attempted elimination of a people and the millions more targeted for destruction. The pictures, the clothes, the toys, all tell of genocide, our word for 6 million acts of murder.

This Day of Remembrance marks more than a single historic tragedy, but 6 million important lives—all the possibilities, all the dreams, and all the innocence that died with them.

The Holocaust is defined as much by the courage of the lost as by the cruelty of the guilty. As Viktor Frankl observed, man is that being who invented the gas chambers of Auschwitz. However, he's also the being who entered those chambers upright, with the Lord's Prayer or Shema Israel on his lips. When all the crimes are finished, the fears realized, and the cries silenced, that was the hope that remained—to be remembered by the living and raised up by the living God.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:45 p.m. in the Rotunda at the United States Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. David Ivry; Nobel Prize winner and author Elie Wiesel, former chair; Rabbi Irving Greenberg, chair; Ruth B. Mandel, vice chair; and Benjamin Meed, member, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council; and Holocaust survivor, author, and human rights activist Simon Wiesenthal.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Fernando de la Rúa of Argentina and an Exchange With Reporters

April 19, 2001

President Bush. I want to thank the President from Argentina for coming here. It is my honor to welcome a friend of America.

This is a country that has been our friend for a long period of time, and I intend to keep our friendship strong, Mr. President. I appreciate so very much your working hard to work through the economic difficulties that you've had. You're making a very strong effort to recover. I know it's been difficult, but you've been a very strong leader.

I appreciate, also, your willingness at times to commit troops as peacekeepers. Your country has been a very strong supporter of keeping the peace around the world.

I look forward to telling the President that one of the main strategies of our foreign policy is to have strong relations in our hemisphere. It begins with remembering our friends. The President represents a country that is a close friend of the United States.

So welcome, Mr. President. *Bienvenidos a los Estados Unidos.*

President de la Rúa. *Muchas gracias, Señor Presidente.* Thank you very much, Mr. President.

[At this point, President de la Rúa spoke in Spanish, and a translation was not provided.]

President Bush. Thank you, Mr. President.

Well, I have a couple of questions from—the United States will alternate to the Argentinean press, and back and forth for two rounds.

Ron Fournier [Associated Press].

U.S. Troop Deployment

Q. Thank you, sir. Mr. President, as part of your—this is a little off topic—as part of your broader review of troop deployments, are you considering pulling out of the Sinai? And if so, why?

President Bush. We are looking at all troop deployments around the world. Where we can reduce troops without creating instability, we will do so. One of the things I said during the course of the campaign and right after my inauguration is that we would be reviewing and looking at and analyzing our troop deployments.

I've always felt that we're overextended, which creates morale problems within our military. On the other hand, I understand we've made commitments, and we just won't simply walk away from our commitments.

We'll consult with our allies. We'll lay the groundwork for reductions if, in fact, we think it is in our Nation's best interest and the world's interest to keep reductions.

So to answer your question, we're reviewing all opportunities to reduce the amount of troops around the world.

Q. And that includes the Sinai as part of that review?

President Bush. We're reviewing every place we have troops deployed.

Argentina

Q. President Bush, are you ready to support Argentina to solve economic and social problems they're facing now?

President Bush. We are. Our Treasury Department is working closely with their counterparts in the Argentinean Government. We want our friend to do well economically. It is in our interest that a trading partner of ours be strong economically. We're working closely with the new Minister of Finance. We're listening to what he's doing. We believe the country is making progress. I'm aware of what the country and the leadership wants to do with the IMF, and we believe we're making good progress toward a stabilization plan.

That's the short-term solution, of course, is, IMF help that now exists and whether or not the IMF is going to provide some kind of latitude toward the Government as it makes strides toward reforms. But longer term is what the President talked about, and that is to promote free trade, free trade all throughout our hemisphere. In one day's time, we'll both be in Quebec City talking about trade. And I'm going to be very aggressive about pushing a free trade agenda for the hemisphere, and I'm so pleased to hear the President say the same words.

Q. Mr. President, should you look at some—

President Bush. Let me say one thing. I think it may make sense, Mr. President, if you speak a little bit, and then let the translator translate. Unfortunately, not many people here speak Spanish, like I do. *[Laughter]*

President de la Rúa. Thank you very much for your words of support and trust in our country. But please, I wouldn't like anyone to think I have come here to ask Mr.

Bush money. *[Laughter]* We do have relations with the international lending institutions, and our financing is already insured.

What we would want is more freedom in trade. And I very much value the support expressed by Mr. Bush for Argentina, where there are so many U.S. investments, and definitely, we would like this to increase.

President Bush. Grandfather [Bill Plante, CBS News]. *[Laughter]*

Sanctions and Energy Supplies

Q. Mr. President, should the U.S. look at easing some of the economic sanctions on Iran, Iraq, and Libya in the interest of getting more oil into this country?

President Bush. You know, we're looking at—in our energy review, we're looking at all opportunities to create more energy supply, to take the pressure off of price. At the same time, I think it's important for the country to review all sanction policies to make sure they are effective. And—but I have no intention as of this moment for taking sanctions off of countries like Iran or Libya.

We've made it clear to the Libyans that the sanctions will remain until such time as they not only compensate for the bombing of the aircraft but also admit their guilt and express remorse.

And as far as Iran goes, it's too early at this time in our relationships to really—it's one thing to consider; it's another thing to act on sanctions. I don't intend to do that anytime soon.

Uno mas.

Free Trade Area of the Americas

Q. Mr. President de la Rúa, President Bush wanted the free trade agreement by the year 2003, but I think Brazil is not too keen on that idea. So now, we're talking about 2005, which was the original date at the Summit of the Americas in 1994. Is that a real possibility, or will that date also pass by?

President de la Rúa. The important thing is that agreement has been reached on that date in Buenos Aires. I celebrate the generosity and flexibility of Mr. Zoellick, who represented the President. An agreement was reached by all countries. In addition to the date, it is important for us to make

progress in terms of the contents, in terms of the way to build a common market to benefit and integrate all countries.

President Bush. Let me say something about that. First of all, I don't want to dispute, of course, the supposition of your question. But I was asked—I think you asked me at a press conference, would I be pleased to see the date moved up, and the answer is, of course; the sooner we get a free trade agreement for the Americas in place, the better off the continent will be.

However, I recognize reality, and it looks like we're going to be aiming for the date 2005. But big progress has been made. And Ambassador Zoellick went down and met with other leaders in our hemisphere, and we've got the framework for an agreement. And not only that, after the Summit of the Americas, we'll be putting out the agreement, itself, or the framework of the agreement for people to review, so that citizens from all countries—this is the first time this has ever happened—where the citizens will be able to review the contents of the trade agreement.

But I appreciate so very much the President's commitment to free trade. He understands the power of trade, and he understands the promise of free trade. And I believe you're going to hear a strong statement at Quebec City that nations of our hemisphere are bound together by the concept of a free trade agreement. And it will be good for our people.

Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:02 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Minister of Economy Domingo Cavallo of Argentina. President de la Rúa spoke in Spanish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Flooding in the Upper Mississippi River Basin

April 19, 2001

I know that all Americans share my concern for the displaced families and residents of Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, and Illinois. Yesterday the Mississippi River engulfed

homes and businesses. Even more flooding is predicted in the upcoming days.

Those who live and work along the upper Mississippi are not strangers to the threat of spring floods. Since the 1993 floods, many communities and residents have taken measures to protect themselves and their property. They are to be commended for this preventative work.

At my direction, FEMA Director Joe Allbaugh and his staff are working closely with State and local officials throughout the impacted and threatens areas to closely track the flooding and any further damage. As I travel to Canada for the Summit of the Americas, I will continue to monitor the situation.

Remarks on Departure for Quebec, Canada

April 20, 2001

Summit of the Americas

Good morning. In a few moments Laura and I will depart for Quebec City in Canada to attend the Summit of the Americas. This meeting will bring together leaders from all 34 democratic nations in our hemisphere.

Together we will put forward an agenda to strengthen our democracies, to tackle common challenges, and we will seek to expand our prosperity by expanding our trade. This is an important meeting for the United States. The future of our Nation is closely tied to the future of our hemisphere.

Many Americans trace their heritage to other parts of the Americas, which enriches our culture. Many American businesses are finding growth and trade in the Americas, which expands our economy. And all Americans have an interest in the peace and stability of our closest neighbors.

Our goal in Quebec is to build a hemisphere of liberty. We must approach this goal in a spirit of civility, mutual respect, and appreciation for our shared values. And we must make real progress.

Progress in this hemisphere requires an explicit commitment to human freedom. Only democratic nations can attend the Summit of the Americas. And every nation in our hemisphere, except one, will be there. This is an extraordinary achievement, one that

would have been unthinkable just 15 years ago.

Progress requires a commitment to tearing down the barriers of poverty, disease, and ignorance so that every individual in our hemisphere may realize his or her full potential. The United States wants to work together with our neighbors to find ways to give all our children quality education, because learning and literacy are the foundations for democracy and for development.

Progress requires new efforts against illegal drugs. Our country is committed to bringing down the demand for drugs here at home. And we want to work more closely with countries where drugs are produced and traded so countries can better fight the supply of drugs at their source.

And progress in our hemisphere requires a renewed commitment to creating a Free Trade Area of the Americas. This will make our hemisphere the largest free trade area in the world, encompassing 34 countries and 800 million people.

We already know from the North American Free Trade Agreement that free trade works. Since 1994, total trade among Canada, Mexico, and the United States has more than doubled. NAFTA has created more choices at lower prices for consumers in all three of our nations. And it has created good jobs for our workers. Now is the time to extend these benefits of free trade throughout the entire hemisphere.

Open trade in our hemisphere will open new markets for our farmers and ranchers, workers and service providers, and high-tech entrepreneurs. It will fuel the engines of economic growth that create new jobs and new income, and it will apply the power of the markets to the needs of the poor. It will give new incentives for nations to reform their economies. It will reinforce our hemispheric—democratic gains because people who operate in open economies eventually demand more open societies.

This third Summit of the Americas will take the next steps in creating an entire hemisphere that is both prosperous and free. *Es una tarea importante. Tenemos que aprovechar la oportunidad.* It's a great task and an extraordinary opportunity to make the Americas the land of opportunity. And I look

forward to getting started this weekend in Quebec.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:50 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Leaders of Andean Nations in Quebec, Canada

April 20, 2001

I want to thank you all for coming. It is my honor to host what I think is a very important meeting between the members of the Andean coalition and my country. I wanted to visit with the leaders face to face. I met President Pastrana before; it's good see him again. I have talked on the phone to some of the leaders. I want to assure the leaders here that our Nation looks forward to working with you, and particularly when it comes to trade and commerce.

I want to assure the leaders that Plan Colombia means more than just the country of Colombia—I know that's of concern to the President of Ecuador—that we've got plans for all the countries in the region. And it's not just on helping to fight drugs. It's on making sure that the economies remain strong, that the infrastructure for education is in place. It is in our Nation's interest that we cooperate together. And so I appreciate the leaders for being here.

It is my honor to host this discussion. I look forward to a very frank and honest exchange of areas where we can cooperate and, if there are some problems, areas that we can work together to solve the problems.

So thank you all for coming. *El honor es mio.*

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:51 p.m. at the Loews le Concorde Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to President Andres Pastrana of Colombia and President Gustavo Noboa of Ecuador. President Fernando Henrique Cardoso of Brazil, President Mireya Elisa Moscoso of Panama, President Valentin Paniagua Corazao of Peru, President Hugo Banzer of Bolivia, and President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela also participated in the discussions.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

April 15

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC, from Crawford, TX.

April 16

The President announced his intention to nominate Bennett William Raley to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science.

The President announced the appointment of Attorney General John Ashcroft as a member of the James Madison Commemoration Commission.

The President announced the appointment of Secretary of State Colin L. Powell as a member of the James Madison Commemoration Commission.

The White House announced that the President applauded Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christine Todd Whitman's decision to move forward with pending regulations to protect America's wetlands.

April 17

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael J. Garcia to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Enforcement.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mary Sheila Gall to be Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Anne O. Krueger to be a member of the Council of Economic Advisers.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jack Dyer Crouch II to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Policy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Russ Whitehurst to be Assistant

Secretary of Education for Educational Research and Improvement.

The President announced his intention to nominate David Garman to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Neal A. McCaleb to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Rosario Marin to be Treasurer of the United States.

The President declared a major disaster in Mississippi and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding on April 3–5.

The White House announced that the President will give commencement addresses at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN, on May 20, and the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD, on May 25.

April 18

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit of Turkey from the Oval Office.

Later, the President traveled to Waterbury, CT, where he toured the B.W. Tinker School. He then traveled to New Britain, CT.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate George Tracey Mehan III to be Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for Water Programs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Eduardo Aguirre, Jr., to be First Vice President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

The President announced his intention to nominate Donald E. Powell to be a member and Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert S. Martin to be Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The President announced his intention to nominate Alfred Rascon to be Director of the Selective Service System.

The President announced his intention to nominate Christina B. Rocca to be Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Jacksonville, FL, New Orleans, LA, Little Rock, AR, and Crawford, TX, on April 25; Houston, TX, on April 26, returning to Crawford, TX, in the evening; and Austin, TX, on April 27.

April 19

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Bashar al-Asad of Syria in the Oval Office.

The President announced his intention to nominate Richard A. Hauser to be General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jenna Dorn to be Federal Transit Administrator at the Department of Transportation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Allen Frederick Johnson to be Chief Agriculture Negotiator for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Spain, Belgium, Sweden, and Poland during his June trip to Europe.

April 20

In the morning, the President traveled to Quebec, Canada.

The President announced his intention to nominate Dan R. Brouillette to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate J. Robert Flores to be Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

The President announced his intention to nominate Stephen Brauer to be Ambassador to Belgium.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released April 15

Announcement: Participation of U.S. Forces in Apprehension of an Indicted War Criminal

Released April 16

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christine Todd Whitman's decision to move forward with pending regulations to protect wetlands

Released April 17

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christine Todd Whitman on new protections from lead poisoning

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of Nigerian President Obasanjo

Released April 18

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Speaks With Prime Minister Ecevit of Turkey

Released April 19

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and U.S. Trade Representative Robert B. Zoellick on the upcoming Summit of the Americas

Statement by the Press Secretary: President To Visit Spain

**Acts Approved
by the President**

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.